

# Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School

3300 West Campus Road

West Columbia, SC 29170-2195

**Grades**

GED

**Enrollment**

311 students

**School Lead Instructor**

Mr. Joseph W. Davis, Jr.

**Agency Director**

Mr. Pat Smith

**Board Chair**

Mr. Russell Hart

## The State of South Carolina

Annual School  
Report Card

**2005**

**ABSOLUTE RATING:**

**EXCELLENT**

**IMPROVEMENT RATING:**

**AVERAGE**

**ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS:**

**N/A**

Definition: As required by the United States Department of Education, Adequate Yearly Progress specified that the statewide target is met for all students and for each subgroup of students: racial/ethnic, economic, disability, limited English proficiency and migrant status.

### **SOUTH CAROLINA PERFORMANCE GOAL**

By 2010, South Carolina's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the fastest improving systems in the country.

[WWW.MYSCSCHOOLS.COM](http://WWW.MYSCSCHOOLS.COM)

[WWW.SCEOC.ORG](http://WWW.SCEOC.ORG)

## Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School

### PERFORMANCE TRENDS OVER 4-YEAR PERIOD

	Absolute Rating	Improvement Rating	Adequate Yearly Progress
2002	Good	Good	N/A
2003	Good	Below Average	N/A
2004	Average	Unsatisfactory	N/A
2005	Excellent	Average	N/A

### PERFORMANCE RATINGS

CRITERIA	DATA
GED Completion Rate	73%
Challenge Phase Completion	76%
Challenge Phase Dismissal	24%
Community Service Hours	74 Hours
Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) gains: Average Growth in Reading for those ineligible to participate in GED Testing	27 Months
Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) gains: Average Growth in Math for those ineligible to participate in GED Testing	24 Months

### DEFINITIONS OF SCHOOL RATING TERMS

- Excellent - School performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Good - School performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Average - School performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Below Average - School is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Unsatisfactory - School performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal

# Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School

## SCHOOL PROFILE

		Our School	Change from Last Year
<b>Students (n=311)</b>			
Average daily attendance	(Cycle 00 1)	145	Down 2
	(Cycle 00 2)	126	Down 16
With disabilities other than speech		20%	Same
Older than usual for grade		0	Same
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent &/or criminal offenses		1%	Down 3
Annual dropout rate		24%	Same
Percentage Meeting Presidential Physical Fitness Standards		100%	Same
Percentage Completing Computer Literacy		100%	Same
Percentage Dismissed following Pre-Challenge Phase		24%	Same
Percentage Participating in Work Based Activities		21%	Up 6
<b>Teachers (n=16)</b>			
Teachers with advanced degrees		100%	Same
Continuing contract teachers		100%	Same
Percent of classes taught by highly qualified teachers		N/A	N/C
Teachers with emergency or provisional certificates		0	N/C
Teachers returning from the previous year		100%	Same
Teacher attendance rate		184.3	Same
Average teacher salary		\$51,198	Up by \$1,854
Professional development days		10	Same
<b>School</b>			
Lead Instructor's years at school		8	Up 1
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects			
	(Cycle 00 1)	18	Same
	(Cycle 00 2)	16	Down 2
Prime instructional time	(Cycle 00 1)	97.0%	Same
	(Cycle 00 2)	97.0%	Same
Dollars spent per pupil		\$20,410	Up by \$1,903
Percent of expenditures spent for teacher salaries		47.2%	Down 1.1
Opportunities in the arts		70%	Same
Parents attending conferences		100%	Same
SACS accreditation		No	N/C

### Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A Not Applicable	N/AV Not Available	N/C Not Collected	N/R Not Reported	I/S Insufficient Sample
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## REPORT OF DIRECTOR

For eighty-four (84) years the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School has served the people of South Carolina. From its founding in 1921 by the late Dr. Wil Lou Gray, to the present day, the agency has educated and provided vocational and life skills training to thousands of citizens of our State. Throughout that time the agency has adapted its mission to meet the critical needs of the day.

The Opportunity School continues to offer traditional academic and vocational training, social and life skills improvement, and employability enhancement. The Youth Challenge Academy offers participants a structured lifestyle with an emphasis on becoming self-reliant through a disciplined, military-style environment. The Challenge Academy is premised upon leadership, teamwork and self-discipline as taught and modeled within a quasi-military framework. While the delivery method of the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School has been reshaped, our theme of motivating the "at-risk" student into a productive, employable young adult remains unchanged.

There are more than twenty similar Challenge programs operating in twenty-five (25) other states throughout the nation. One of the performance measures used to evaluate the academic progress of the cadets is the Adult Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE). The performance of our cadets on the TABE has been exemplary, which is reflected in our average growth rate.

As we prepare our cadets to return to their communities as productive citizens, they are exposed to many types of career choices. Some of these career choices allow them to get experience as teachers' aid; foodservice workers; civic services; sales; and auto mechanics. We have entered into a partnership with Midlands Technical College, where selected cadets are given the opportunity to obtain three college credits, in addition to the GED.

We also participated in Harvest Hope Food Bank, Congaree River Clean-up, Cayce Riverwalk Clean-up, and many other activities that have made a positive impact on the community.

### EVALUATIONS BY STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND PARENTS

	Students*	Teachers	Parents
Number of surveys returned	70	9	22
Percent satisfied with learning environment	77.1%	87.5%	95.2%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	82.9%	88.9%	86.4%
Percent satisfied with home-school relations	56.5%	83.3%	81.0%

\* 11<sup>th</sup> grade students were surveyed.